

Supplementary Material D

Comparison of effect estimates based on synthesis method used (pairwise vs. network)

Even though the overall inconsistency test was non-significant after excluding outliers, Figure D1 shows some potential issues with the consistency assumption when comparing markers with the same shape. After excluding outliers, there is some indication of consistency issues with estimates of relaxation and biofeedback interventions and education or information interventions. This is likely because these interventions are often used as control interventions -- and when they are their (generally unobserved indirect) effect is smaller compared to TAU. A similar pattern was observed with resistive exercise interventions until outliers were excluded.

The largest effect is observed for balance interventions irrespective of method used, but variation in the estimate depending on the method used indicates considerable uncertainty. The effect estimate for general exercise varies a lot by method used and inclusion or exclusion of outliers. In contrast, the effect estimate of CBT appears consistent and reliable as little variation is observed depending on method used or treatment of outliers.

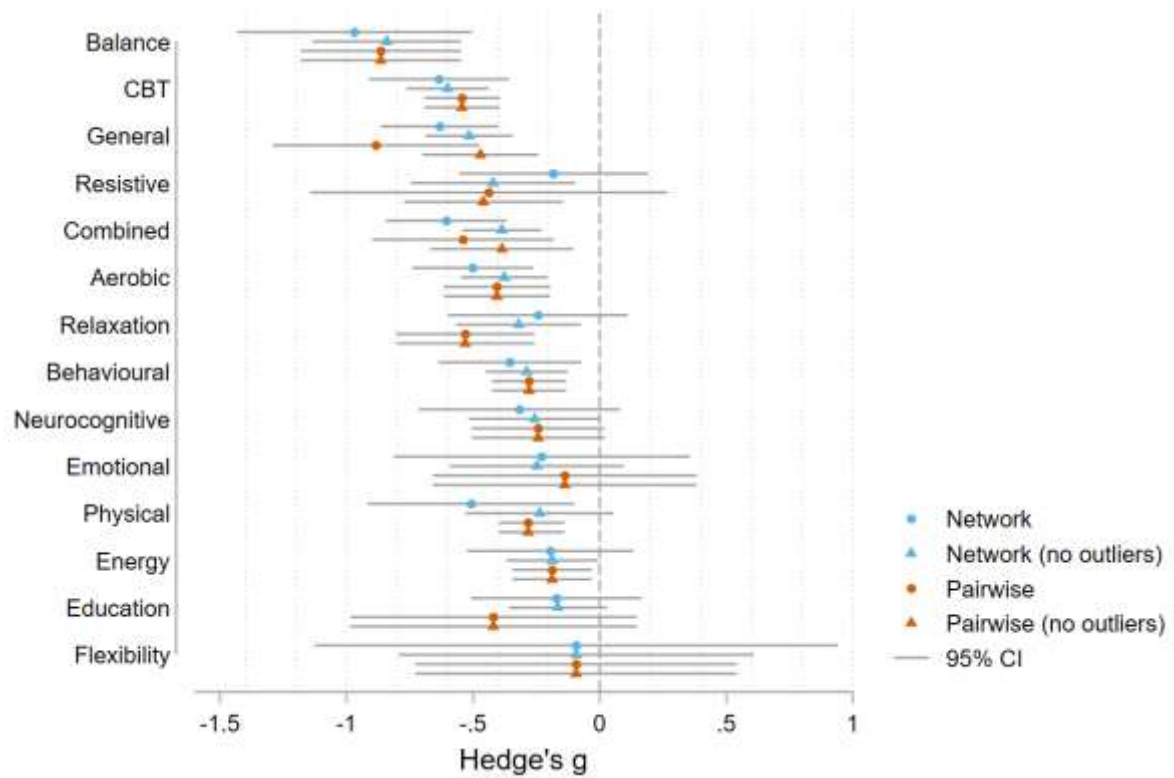


Figure D1. Effect estimates and precision based on pairwise and network synthesis methods, including and excluding outliers. This plot displays differences in the effect estimates and their precision based on the quantitative synthesis method used (pairwise vs. network) and whether outliers were excluded.